



T H E
K O R E A R E V I E W

MARCH, 1904.

The Russo-Japanese War.

As can be seen at a glance, it will be some time before there can be a general engagement between the Russian and Japanese forces. The question is now being eagerly asked what tactics the Russians will pursue. Will they come forward and stubbornly contest every foot of ground beyond the Yalu or will they mass their forces at some strategic point and risk their whole cause upon a single great battle? It is the opinion of some that they will try to draw the Japanese further and further north as they did the French in Napoleon's time, but this is hardly credible, for even the novice in war will see that the Japanese will reconstruct the railway in their rear and so be able to withdraw at any time. And in addition to this, the Russians have no great towns and cities to retire to, as they had in Europe. It would even be worse for them than for the Japanese. •

The last month has given some evidence of their intentions. We hear that they are throwing up strong redoubts at Andong, just across the Yalu, and it seems more than likely that they will try to defend that line. The few bands of Russian horsemen that are this side the Yalu amount to little; in fact they aid the Japanese cause, for they commit excesses which exasperate the Koreans and are making them rise in defense of their homes. News came from the north lately that a hundred or more Russians entered the far northern town of Kang-gei

and took people's grain and other food and offered insults to the women of the town. The prefect called together a strong force of tiger-hunters, who form a regular guild throughout the north, and set upon the Russians and inflicted severe injuries. We do not yet know which side suffered the more but it seems that the Koreans drove the obnoxious intruders across the Yalu. News of such things enrages the Koreans all over the country and the officers in the army are asking that they be sent to aid the Japanese. One difficulty that the Russian meets in the north of Korea is that he has no money excepting Russian paper roubles with which to pay for provisions. These notes are quite useless to the Koreans and therefore the Russians can live only by bringing all their supplies or by stealing from the people. Now that the Korean government has made an alliance with Japan, the Russians doubtless feel at liberty to treat Korean territory as hostile ground, and levy whatever supplies they may want. If food was all they extorted it might fall within the limits of civilized warfare, but they take other liberties which are entirely outside the pale of modern military methods.

Meanwhile, the Japanese are moving steadily northward and in a short time will have the Russians all the other side of the Yalu. That the Japanese recognize the seriousness of the situation and the probability of a long and exhausting war, is seen in the fact that they have already begun the building of a railway from Seoul to the Yalu River. At the same time the road from Fusan up to Seoul is being pushed to completion and when the two are finished there will be a continuous line from Fusan to the northern boundary of Korea. This road will serve a double purpose, for besides supplying a ready means of transport for troops, it will be still more useful as a means for carrying Korean food stuffs from the southern districts, the "garden of Korea," to the north, where the Japanese army is at work.

The past few weeks have witnessed the last dying flurry of the "peddler's" guild. This was once a simple mercantile society composed of travelling merchants or

peddlars, but they disbanded long ago and in their place there arose a so-called peddlar's guild which was in truth a gang of desperadoes who under cover of the name "private police" were prepared to do any dirty work that unscrupulous officials in high places saw fit to give them. They have been the most dangerous element in Seoul all these weeks, and the only anxiety of the foreigners in Seoul was lest this gang of hoodlums should break out in some manner before the arrival of Japanese troops. Now that the Japanese are in power here they have caused a royal edict to be promulgated doing away with the Peddlar's Guild. This naturally was not pleasant to the peddlars and they began plotting against the officials who had injured them. A few weeks ago a man armed with a sword climbed the wall of the Foreign Minister's house and searched the place, but as the Minister was fortunately spending the night elsewhere the assassin could not find him. Enraged at his failure, the felon struck the door-sill of the Minister's private room a vicious blow with his sword and then decamped. The same night three other houses were attacked with explosive bombs but the material with which they were charged was of such poor quality that they could do little damage. Since that time it has been found out that the ring-leaders in these cowardly assaults were officials who lately held high power on the Russian side of the fence and at the present moment these men are being sought for and arrested as rapidly as possible. It is certain that when the Russians were influential in Seoul they used the very worst elements in the government and among the people to effect their ends. The real head of this "Peddlar's Guild" was an official high in the favor of the Russians.

Nothing could exceed the moderation and good sense of the Japanese in handling the delicate question of nominal Korean independence and virtual Japanese domination in Korea. We believe that Japan fully intends to preserve the independence of the country but at the present crisis it is manifestly impossible to let the Koreans do just as they please; nor would it be for their

own best interests. Many people have predicted that the Japanese would secure the decapitation, or at least the execution, of the leading pro-Russian officials in the Korean government; but so far from this, the Japanese have taken one of them, and the leading one, in safety to Japan lest Korean people should fall upon him and tear him to pieces as they would have been glad to do. It is a wise policy of conciliation that the Japanese have adopted and not one of spite or revenge, and they will gain by it in the end. Just now the Koreans are complaining that the Japanese do not kill the pro-Russian officials, but they will come to see that it is better to make a friend of an enemy than to kill him. Many of these pro-Russians honestly believed that they were working in the interests of the country and all they need is to have their eyes opened to the truth. This is what is happening now and it is safe to say that most of them are converted already.

Since the above was written we learn that the Korean tiger-hunters in the north are taking things into their own hands. Most foreigners imagine that the Koreans are a mild people who have no fight in them, but if so they have either never heard or have forgotten how these hunters stood their ground against the French on the island of Kang-wha in 1866 and against the Americans in 1871. They fought with conspicuous bravery, and in the fight with the Americans they stood their ground until every one of them was killed. The reports that are coming from the north at the present time show that these hunters have lost none of their old-time prowess, and though poorly armed and without anything that could be called proper military training they are attacking the Russians wherever they can get at them on Korean soil.

In the town of Yung-byun a band of Russian cavalry attacked and seized the Korean telegraph office, but the Korean hunters rallied and surrounded the Russians, and in the fight that followed they drove the intruders out, although the Koreans suffered heavier losses than the Russians. This was doubtless due to the

fact that the Russians are so much better armed than the Koreans.

The coming of Marquis Ito to Korea as a special Envoy from Tokyo is the most important subject of conversation at present. His mission is ostensibly a merely complimentary one but it is as clear to the Koreans as to the foreigners that there underlies it a very important move on the part of the Japanese. The Koreans are to be congratulated on the coming of a man so eminently fitted, in every way, to help the Korean government over this crisis. The Marquis is a man who has been intimately connected with the whole process of Japan's national regeneration and his wide experience, his advanced age, his wise conservatism and his conciliatory tendencies make it almost sure that the Korean people of every class will welcome him here.

It may be that Marquis Ito will not stay here but that Count Aoki will come to aid the Korean Government during these transition days. Some such statement is abroad. We wish the Marquis might stay, but in Count Aoki Korea will have an adviser thoroughly capable of handling the situation.

The impossibility of foretelling anything with accuracy is illustrated by the fact that, even as we write this, news comes that the Russians have crossed the Yalu in force and occupied the Korean port of Yongampo. Whether this is true or not it is too early to say, but it is not at all improbable. It looks as if the Japanese were waiting till all Korean territory as far as the Yalu is cleared of Russians before throwing in their main force, which would land at this same port of Yongampo, thus saving a long and costly march over-land. This the Russians seem to have foreseen, and they apparently wish to stop it if possible by the occupation of Yongampo. How they can hope to hold it against a combined attack by land and sea on the part of the Japanese does not appear and time alone will tell.

The foreign war correspondents seem to be having a hard time, or at least a slow time, securing their credentials from the Japanese authorities to proceed to the front.

It seems likely that they will be provided with their papers only when the time comes to send the main body of Japanese troops to the scene of war. As yet only a few Japanese, comparatively, have come to occupy Korea and prepare the way for the coming of the main army. The permits have not yet been issued to the war correspondents, but they are so eager to get to the front that they have, a few of them, gone north hoping that their papers will follow them. As the Japanese have control of all the telegraph lines in Korea it will be hard to get news out of the north except such as the Japanese authorities wish should come. We imagine that it would be very wise to consult the wishes of the Japanese so far as possible, for it is sure that if information detrimental to the interests of the Japanese transpires, those responsible for it will have small chance of success at the front when the real fighting begins.

There was a busy scene about the hotels when these correspondents were bidding on horses and other necessary things for their trips to the north. Horseflesh naturally soared in price until it nearly got out of sight of even the plethoric purses of the representatives of the journalist magnates. One correspondent was offered a beast at the fancy figure of Yen 400. Another found, when he had secured his mount, that it was unfortunately blind in both eyes. Japanese who could speak a smattering of English and who had considered themselves happy at a salary of twenty yen a month held themselves cheap at a hundred yen, and one interpreter secured a position at two hundred. But then, one naturally wants a little more if he is expected to stand and watch a fight without being able to take a hand in it.

As the month of March draws to a close, we see that there has been some little development in the war situation. The number of Japanese troops in the peninsula has not yet materially increased but the Korean territory is gradually being cleared of Russians troops, except along the Yalu. Just how many there are in that vicinity it is impossible to tell, but there may be three or four thousand. There is no evidence as yet that they intend

to attempt to hold any of the Korean soil against the Japanese. If there had been any large number of Russians this side of the Yalu we would surely have heard of it. It is not certain as yet even that they intend to try to prevent the Japanese crossing that historic stream. If, as has been intimated, the Russians are massing at Harbin, it is more than likely that the Japanese will have to penetrate Manchurian territory some distance before touching any real army. At this stage of the game it is useless to attempt any surmise as to what will happen. If authentic information should come that large detachments of Russians were approaching the Korean border by different roads it would then be time to predict that the Japanese will have to fight soon, but at the present moment no forecast can be made. Of course, we catch at every straw of evidence which would help to decide this important question. A few days ago the rumor prevailed that a prominent Russian has said that the Japanese would be crushed within four months. This may be true, but if the boast that Port Arthur was impregnable be taken as a criterion it will be well to add a few months to this estimate, or even to substitute the word Russian for Japanese.

Meanwhile Seoul has been entertained with **The Royal Funeral.** a royal pageant. The funeral of the late Queen Dowager was a very spectacular event. She was the queen of King Honjong who reigned from 1835 to 1850. She was married in 1844 at the age of thirteen and was left a widow at the age of eighteen.

We have given a sketch of her life in a former issue of this magazine, but we will try to give a brief account of the funeral pageant.

According to the usual custom, this funeral would not have come for two months yet, but for reasons of state it was thrown forward and occurred on March 14. Royal funerals always take place early in the morning, sometimes before light. It was still dark when the main part of the procession took their places along the wide street which runs through the center of the city, but they

had to wait some hours before the final ceremonies at the palace were completed and the royal catafalque was borne out to take its place in the long line.

All night long the streets were made picturesque with flaring lanterns, hurrying messengers, impatient horses in gay trappings, groups of soldiers and grooms warming their hands by little fires built along the sides of the great street and by companies of guild-men bringing out their streaming banners and getting in place for the march in the morning. And around and among it all poured a constant stream of white-clad Koreans of every class, to whom this was a festive rather than mournful occasion.

The Queen Dowager's tomb is on a beautiful hill-side about ten miles outside the East Gate, near the spot where, as a young widow, she saw her husband buried. The road thither had been specially prepared for the occasion and it offered a wide and smooth avenue for the impressive cortege that was soon to wind its slow way to the Queen's last resting place. The procession was about two miles in length, for it stretched from the Big Bell, which has tolled the curfew for every king of the dynasty, to the Great East Gate. Down the center of the broad street there was laid the usual line of red earth which intimates that royalty cannot tread the common way but must have a new road to traverse. On either side of the road, all the way to the tomb, huge brush torches were placed at intervals of eighty or a hundred feet. These were a foot in diameter and about eight feet high. When the funeral starts on time and the procession goes out before the light has come, these huge flaming torches add just the necessary touch of weirdness to the impressive picture.

First in the procession come the great embroidered banners of the guilds, which make one think of the guilds of medieval Europe. They represent the industries in silk, linen, shoes, paper, tobacco, silver, furniture, fruit, rice, fish, furs, bronze, wedding outfits, cord, figured silk, and the river towns of Han-gang, Su-gang, No-dol, Kung-duk-yi, Sam-ga, Yong-san, Su-bing-go, Tuk-sum and

Wang-sim-yi. Each of these great banners, hanging from a cross-piece, bears the name of the guild that furnished it, and the guilds vie with each other in making the banners as conspicuous as possible.

Behind the banners come gaily ornamented litters borne high on the shoulders of four men, and in the litters are placed the toilet articles and other utensils of the dead queen; such as mirrors, cosmetic dishes, writing utensils, jade ornaments and other jewelry. All these are to be deposited in her grave. This represents an ancient idea that the spirit of the dead will use the utensils in the other world.

Third in the procession come some more four-man litters in which are carried all the diplomas and other written honors that the dead queen received during her life-time. What use they can be, it is hard to say; for it is hardly to be believed that the dead can use these as passports at the gate of paradise. If so a good many queer people have gotten in.

After these come a crowd of small officials in chairs or on horse-back. They are the people who have charge of the mere manual part of the funeral arrangements. They are all dressed in deep mourning which consists of linen roughly woven and of the natural color, a very light brown.

A body of Korean troops, about 200 in number, comes next. They carry muskets with fixed bayonets, but not reversed. These soldiers are dressed in what is intended as foreign uniform, but it is a rather queer imitation. All the suits seem to be made on a single pattern, whether the wearer be five foot two or six foot one. Perhaps it helps to give a semblance of uniformity, but it is sometimes accomplished only with an inordinate exhibition of neck and shank. In the old days, say 1889, these soldiers, in their long flowing skirts, with red sleeves, looked far more imposing than they do in this painful attempt at foreign uniform. On each side of this body of troops walks a line of lantern-bearers. These are fortunately dressed in the old-time Korean garb, with long skirts, flowing sleeves and horse-hair plumed hats. The lan-

terns are simply oval iron frames two feet long by a foot wide, over which blue and red silk gauze is draped. The candle is attached to the point where the iron ribs join and the whole is carried by a long wooden handle from the end of which the lantern hangs like the lash of a whip. The whole ensemble is remarkably picturesque to those who have not seen it too many times.

Then come some forty or fifty banners inscribed, in Chinese characters, with eulogistic biographical notes on the dead queen. Sometimes, in the case of an exceptionally renowned man, the number of these flattering banners runs up into the hundreds. We now jump from the sublime to the ridiculous, for these stately banners are followed by four men of low birth who are hidden under the ugliest masks that human ingenuity could invent. The wildest fancy can imagine nothing more grotesque and hideous. We have here a manifestation of one phase of the real underlying religion of the Korean, stripped of all its Confucian and Buddhistic embellishments. These repulsive figures are intended to scare away all malignant spirits, who at such times make special endeavors to play their malicious pranks upon helpless humanity. The Korean has his own peculiar brand of devil, whose abilities along certain lines are so great and along others so circumscribed that it requires a careful study to really place him.

But even more interesting and striking are the six great paper horses that are trundled on carts behind these devil-scarers. The beasts are cast in heroic mould and are of various colors, gray, white and spotted red. The carts are drawn by means of ropes, and a dozen or more of the Seoul shop-keepers supply the tractive power. In some countries, among savage tribes, a horse is killed at the grave and its spirit follows the dead man to the land of shades, where he rides it as of yore; but in Korea they carry these paper horses instead. It is cheaper and satisfies the requirements as well. Besides, it is more spectacular, and that is a paramount consideration.

All these things are the preliminaries, the grand over-

ture. But now comes the real thing. It is led off by the Grand Marshal, an official of the highest grade, who is master of ceremonies. He is dressed in a well-fitting foreign uniform and is mounted on a fine horse. His appearance is tame compared with the flaunting splendor of an official of his grade in the olden times, but with his large retinue of soldiers flanked with lantern-bearers he is sufficiently imposing. The curious mixture of modern and medieval in this procession adds an element of humor which was lacking in the old-time pageant.

The Marshal is followed by the great chair of state in which the queen was wont to be carried in her lifetime. It is draped in gaudy colored trappings and is carried high on the shoulders of thirty-two men. Behind it comes what is called the "Small Catafalque" or So-yū. The casket is not in it, but in the Great Catafalque which follows. It is a curious custom, that of always carrying two of each royal vehicle. Whenever the Emperor goes out, an empty litter is carried in front and the Emperor follows in another. To the foreigner it looks as if there might be fear of a possible break-down, but the Korean would be horrified at such a suggestion. As the smaller catafalque is almost the same as the great one except in size we will describe but one. The Great Catafalque is formed of a heavy frame-work carried on the shoulders of 108 bearers. Thick transverse poles support the frame-work and stout padded ropes are run fore and aft between these poles so that the shoulders of the bearers shall not be galled. On the high frame-work is a structure like a little house ten feet long six feet high and five feet broad. The roof and sides of this little pavilion are painted and draped in the most highly colored paints and silks. All the tints of the rainbow compete for the supremacy in the war of colors. It is open at the front and rear, and the casket containing the remains of the queen is drawn in by a large number of men by means of ropes. When it had been carefully deposited the silken curtains which had been rolled up were let down and a crowd of palace women came to mourn for the last time beside the body of the queen whom they had served so

many years. They stood behind the bier and wept volubly, bending the body and wiping their faces with their skirts. When this lamentation was over the catafalque was ready to proceed. Two men took their stand on the platform, one in front of the casket and one behind it. These were to guide the bearers. The one in front held a hand bell which he rung as a signal.

After a good deal of running about and confusion the 108 bearers took their places with the heavy padded cords over their shoulders and with a rhythmic sort of chant lifted the catafalque from the wooden horses on which it rested and slowly forged ahead. Four long ropes led forward from the catafalque and two others led back. These were held by some seventy men each. Those in front were supposed to help it forward and those behind to ease it down a hill. As the catafalque passed down the street it had on either side a sort of screen or curtain of black cloth behind which some women walked or rode. This was perhaps the most curious part of the whole procession from an historical point of view. It is well known that in ancient Korea two or more people were buried alive with the body of a king. We find it expressly stated in the history of one of the kings about twelve hundred years ago that he gave specific directions to omit this ceremony in connection with his funeral. During a part at least of the dynasty which existed in Korea between 918 and 1392 A. D. it was customary to bury kings in vaults which had several apartments. In one the body was placed and in the others three or four persons voluntarily took their place, provided with a small amount of food. Then the whole structure was covered deep with earth and the buried persons died of starvation or lack of air.

On the platform in front of the casket stood a man in full mourning dress, and behind the casket, facing backwards, stood another. The one in front held a bell in his hand with which he enforced his commands to the bearers. Beside him was a great brush pen such as the Koreans use in writing, but enlarged a hundred fold. It was a bamboo pole on the end of which was a huge

brush and when the "driver" saw any man shirking his work he would dip this brush in a bowl of paint and touch the shoulder of the miscreant with it. This would make it possible to single him out for punishment later. This man standing in front of the casket is the chief of the carpenters who have had the work of making the casket and other paraphernalia of the funeral. The man behind is the chief of the painters who have decorated the bier and the casket.

Immediately behind the catafalque comes a crowd of soldiers in the midst of whom rides the Emperor, when he attends in person. And behind all comes a mass of police and various kinds of messengers, servants and hangers-on.

A New Book on Korea.

Korea, by ANGUS HAMILTON, London, William Heinemann, 1904, pp.xiii and 309. Illustrated.

We have received this new volume on Korea and have read it with great interest. Mr. Hamilton, as correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* spent three or four months in Korea during which time he secured a considerable amount of information. The book is printed on extremely fine and heavy paper and although much of the type used was old and broken the general get up of the work is good. Mr. Hamilton excels in descriptions of scenery, and the accounts of travel in the country are admirable. He has been able to catch the spirit of the occasion in a most happy manner and we consider this to be the best thing in that line that has yet appeared. But speaking of the Korean archipelago which he passed through on the regular steamers he says,

The coral beds display many violent tints and delicate shades forming in their beautiful colorings a sea garden of matchless splendor. Many varieties of cactus grow side by side with curious ferns, palms and creepers. In passing from group to group shoals of whales are to be seen blowing columns of spray aloft or sleeping idly on the surface.

With all regard for Mr. Hamilton's correct intentions we must still be left to wonder where these coral beds form a sea garden of matchless splendor. His description is that of some tropic island, for it is quite sure that Korea produces neither eacti nor palms. The writer was peculiarly fortunate in getting such a good view of the whales, for in twenty voyages or more between Chemulpo and Fusan we have never been able to see one, and it is difficult to realize how whales can haunt the tide-swept estuaries of the southern coast. We had supposed that the whales were found mostly off the eastern coast.

The writer however, had a correct eye for natural beauty and in his description of inland scenery he is specially felicitous. For this reason it is much to be regretted that the book should be marred by an occasional sentence like the following:

From Pak-tu-san to Wiju there is one mighty and natural panorama of mountains with snow-clad cloud-wrapped summits, and beautiful valleys with rich crops and quaintly placed, low-thatched houses, through which rivers course like angry silver.

We may safely say that this happens only when the rivers are swollen with the summer rains and is not a permanent phenomenon. On another page he speaks of practically this same region in the following terms:

Cut off from the eastern division of the Kingdom by ranges of mountains and extending from near Chinnampo to the northern frontiers of the Kingdom, is a stretch of country, partly inhabited. It is frequented by bands of Korean robbers and Chinese bandits--the haunt of the wild beast, barren and almost impenetrable. It is almost untouched by western civilization. Its groves of pines and firs recall the time when Korea was one vast forest. The soil is productive and the time is ripe, &c., &c.

This leaves us in grave doubt as to the author's meaning. It is a land of beautiful valleys, rich crops, the haunt of the wild beast, barren and almost impenetrable and infested with Korean robbers and Chinese bandits. No doubt all these conditions prevail in different sections of the north but unfortunately the author has failed to segregate the favorable and the unfavorable aspects of the country.

He gives us a very fine description of Yongampo, and what appears to be a correct account of the methods by which it was taken and held by the Russians. We have seen nowhere else so vivid a description of the monastery region of Diamond Mountains. He gives us not so much a physical description but reproduces the feelings inspired by a visit to those venerable institutions. We may differ with him as to the statement that the pillars upholding the temple roofs are of teak wood, which must have come from Singapore or that vicinity, but we draw from his whole account the *feeling* of being on the spot and sharing the experience with him.

When we turn to his account of actual conditions as prevailing in Korca we see at once that three or four months is not long enough to make a correct estimate.

Speaking of the opening of Korea and the attitude of China he makes the following statement :

It was in 1876 that Korea made her first modern treaty. It was not until three years later that any exchange of envoys took place between the contracting party and herself. Despite the treaty Korea showed no disposition to profit by the existence of the new relations until the opening of Chemulpo to trade in 1883 revealed to her the commercial advantages which she was now in a position to enjoy. All this time China had been in intercourse with foreigners. Legations had been established in her capital : consuls were in charge of the open ports : commercial treaties had been arranged. She was already old and uncanny in the wisdom which came to her by this dealing with the people of Western nations. But, in a spirit of perversity without parallel in constitutional history, China retired within herself to such a degree that Japan, within one generation, has advanced to the position of a great power, and even Korea has become, within twenty years, the superior of her former liege.

How it happened that Japan's advance was dependent upon China's retrogression and in what genuine particulars Korea is the superior of China the writer leaves entirely to the imagination of the reader.

Mr. Hamilton draws the most flattering picture of Korea's progress toward enlightenment which we vainly wish was a true one. He says :

In less than a decade Korea has promoted works of an industrial and humanitarian character which China, at the present time, is bitterly opposing. It is true that the liberal tendencies of Korea have been

stimulated by association with the Japanese. Without the guiding hand of that energetic country the position which she would enjoy today is infinitely problematical. The contact has been wholly beneficial.

We understand by "infinitely problematical" that the author don't know. Compare this fullsome praise of the Japanese and their influence upon Korca with what the author says on a subsequent page:

The extraneous evidence of the power of the Japanese irritates the Koreans, increasing the unconquerable aversion which has inspired them against the Japanese through centuries, until, of the various races of foreigners in Korea at the present, none are so deservedly detested as those hailing from the Island Empire of the Mikado. Nor is this prejudice remarkable, when it is considered that it is the scum of the Japanese nation which has settled down upon Korea. It is, perhaps, surprising that the animus of the Koreans against the Japanese has not died out with time, but the fault lies entirely with the Japanese themselves. Within recent years so much has occurred to alter the position of Japan and to flatter the vanity of these island people that they have lost their sense of perspective. Puffed up with conceit, they now permit themselves to commit excesses of a most detestable character. Their extravagant arrogance blinds them to the absurdities and follies of their actions, making manifest the fact that their gloss of civilization is the merest veneer. Their conduct in Korea shows them to be destitute of moral and intellectual fiber. They are debauched in business and the prevalence of dishonorable practices in public life makes them indifferent to private virtue. Their interpretation of the laws of their settlements, as of their own country is corrupt. Might is right; the sense of power is tempered neither by reason, justice nor generosity. Their existence from day to day, their habits and manners, their commercial and social degradation, complete an abominable travesty of the civilization which they profess to have studied. It is intolerable that a government aspiring to the dignity of a first class power should allow its settlements in a friendly and foreign country to be a blot upon its own prestige and a disgrace to the land that harbors them.

And yet he says distinctly that the contact has been wholly beneficial! In view of the publicity given to these strange and extravagant statements we cannot pass them by without a strong protest. It is the purpose of this Review to discuss everything bearing upon Korca in a fair spirit and it would be unjust to the public to allow such preposterous charges to pass unchallenged. We do not think that they are true. We appeal to the whole foreign community who have spent some years in

Korea to say whether in this tirade the occasional ill-treatment of a Korean by a Japanese has not been made the ground for a sweeping condemnation of the whole Japanese community, a thing which turns the writer's charge of unreason and injustice upon his own head. We deny his charge that the Japanese settlement is the curse of every treaty port in Korea. We deny that the modesty, cleanliness and politeness so characteristic of the Japanese are conspicuously absent in this country. We deny the sweeping charge that the Japanese merchant is a rowdy and that the Japanese coolie is more prone to steal than to work. In the same breath he says that contact with the Japanese has been only beneficial and that it has been a disgrace. Both these statements are gross exaggerations.

Speaking of Chemulpo and its relative importance he remarks:

Chemulpo, however, the center in which an important foreign settlement and open port have sprung up, does not suggest in itself the completeness of the transformation which in a few years has taken place in the capital. It is twenty years since Chemulpo was opened to foreign trade and to-day it boasts a magnificent bund, wide streets, imposing shops and a train service which connects it with the capital. The sky is threaded with a maze of telephone and telegraph wires, there are several hotels conducted on western principles and there is also an international club. . . . From small and uncertain beginnings four well-built, well-lighted settlements have sprung up expanding into a general foreign, a Japanese, a Chinese and a Korean quarter. The Japanese section is the best located and the most promising.

This in spite of the fact that "the Japanese settlement is the curse of every treaty port in Korea." What the writer means by saying that Chemulpo does not suggest in itself the completeness of the transformation which in a few years has taken place in Seoul becomes evident in his description of Seoul.

A few years ago it was thought that the glory of the ancient city had departed. Now, however, the prospect is suggestive of prosperity . . . so quickly has the population learned to appreciate the results of foreign intercourse that, in a few more years, it will be difficult to find in Seoul any remaining link with the capital of yore. . . . Improvements which have been wrought also in the conditions of the city—in its streets and houses, in its sanitary measures and in its methods of communication have replaced these ancient customs. An excellent and rapid train

runs from Chemulpo and electric trains afford quick transit within and beyond the capital. Even electric lights illuminate by night some parts of the chief city of the Hermit Kingdom. Moreover an aqueduct is mentioned; the police force has been reorganized, drains have come and evil odors have fled. Old Seoul with its festering alleys, its winter accumulations of every species of filth, its plastering mud and penetrating foulness, has almost entirely vanished from within the walls of the capital. The streets are magnificent, spacious, clean, admirably made and well drained. The narrow, dirty lanes have been widened, gutters have been covered and roadways broadened, until, with its trains, its cars, its lights, its miles of telegraph lines, its Railway Station Hotel, brick houses and glass windows, Seoul is within measurable distance of becoming the highest, most interesting and cleanest city in the east. It is still not one whit Europeanized, for the picturesqueness of the purely Korean principles of architecture have been religiously maintained, and are to be observed in all future improvements.

Will our friends of Chemulpo accept this as a valid reason for granting that Chemulpo does not suggest in itself the completeness of the transformation that has taken place in Seoul? But in the very next sentence the author says:

The shops still cling to the drains, the jewellers' shops hang over one of the main sewers of the city, the cabinet makers occupy both sides of an important thoroughfare, their precious furniture half in and half out of filthy gutters.

It is very difficult for anyone to write an interesting book on Korea, from superficial observation merely, without exaggeration. We read in this book that there are innumerable palaces in the city, that at all hours processions of chairs are seen making for the palace, that the pounding of clothes with sticks is the *sole occupation* of the women of the lower classes. He gives us to understand that the exposure of the breast is the rule with women on the street but he says it is not an agreeable spectacle as the women seen abroad are usually aged or infirm. The fact is that not one per cent of the women on the street are thus exposed. It is only the slave women and a few others of which this can be truly said, and these never wear the *chang-ot* over the head so that his remark that "the effect of the contrast between the hidden face and the naked breast is exceptionally ludicrous" is wholly imaginary. We are told that "the girls of the poorer orders are sold as domestic slaves and become attached

to the households of the upper classes." It is very uncommon for a parent to sell a daughter in this way. One would think from the text that it was the rule rather than the rare exception.

The author gives six pages of the book to the dancing girl, ending with the following, which will be a surprise to those who have witnessed the inanity of a Korean dance and the execrable shriek of the accompanying native band:

The little figures seemed unconscious of their art; the musicians unconscious of the qualities of their wailing. Nevertheless the masterly restraint of the band, the conception, skill and execution of the dancers made up a triumph of technique.

Many foreigners who have listened to native music have wondered how those men could possibly endure the strident sounds they drew from their crude instruments, but if it is true that "they are unconsious of the quality of their wailings" it is all right. The riddle is solved.

The next chapter is on the Korean Court but we must decline to quote some things that the writer says about the Emperor. The mere quotation would be a discourtesy, but we fancy that the gentlemen of the Diplomatic Corps will hardly agree that the Emperor is "now almost a cypher in the management of his Empire," which is one of the author's milder statements. The chapter is a curious mixture of fact and fiction. On the whole the facts predominate though the description and history of Lady Om are given in the most "popular" modern journalistic style.

A bright spot in this book is the chapter devoted to a sketch of J. McLeavy Brown, C.M.G. LL.D., and the question of the Customs. Here the author was exceptionally well informed and he pays a most graceful and deserved tribute to the man and the system which have played perhaps the most important part in contemporary Korean history. The chapter is well written, thorough and conclusive.

The chapter on education, arts, punishments, marriage and divorce, concubines, children and government

Customs

contains much that is true and interesting though the statements that "the Mandarin dialect of China is considered the language of polite society" and "it is the medium of official communication at Court" will be read with a smile. The Chinese character is the official medium for documents and letters but the Mandarin dialect is not spoken in Korea.

We are told that the cause of the Japanese invasion of 1592 was that the King of Korea refused to renew a former condition of vassalage. No mention is made of the desire of Hideyoshi to invade China. It was Korea's refusal to help Japan invade China, or even to give the Japanese a free passage through the peninsula for that purpose that brought on the war. Korea was never the vassal of Japan so far as can be discovered in history.

We must protest against the implication that the Japanese government was directly responsible for the death of the late Queen. That implication is found in the following words:

Before she (Japan) had realized the potentialities of her position she had committed herself to a design by which she hoped to secure the King and Queen and direct herself the reins of Government; but her coup d'etat was to recoil disastrously on her own head. The Queen fell a victim to the plot and although the King was imprisoned, he, together with the Crown Prince contrived in a little time to find refuge in the Russian Legation.

What we object to in this is the claim that Japan formed and carried out that plot, rather than a few Japanese on their own initiative and in defiance of what they must have known their government would approve.

In dealing with the religions of Korea the writer says that

Statements of ancient Chinese and Japanese writers, and the early Jesuit missionaries, tend to prove that the worship of spirits and demons has been the basis of national belief since the earliest times. The god of the hills is even now the most popular deity. Worship of the spirits of heaven and earth, of the invisible powers of the air, of nature, of the morning star, of the guardian genii of the hills and rivers, and of the soil and grain, has been so long practiced that, in spite of the influences of Confucianism and the many centuries in which Buddhism has existed in the land, the actual worship of the great mass of the people has undergone little material alteration.

This, in the main, is quite true, for Confucianism is merely a code of etiquette and Buddhism has been rather assimilated by the native demonolatry than otherwise. For this reason we do not understand the concluding sentence in which he says that Korea must be classed among the Buddhist countries of the world.

Of the native Korean servants he makes the following remarks:

The Korean does not approach the Chinaman as a body-servant; he has neither initiative nor the capacity for the work, while he combines intemperance, immorality and laziness in varying degrees. The Master usually ends by waiting on his man. There is, however, an antidote for this state of things. If sufficient spirit be put into the argument and the demonstration be further enforced by an occasional kick, as circumstances may require, it is possible to convert a first-class, sun-loving wastrel into a willing, if unintelligent servant. Under any circumstances his dishonesty will be incorrigible.

In the concluding pages of the book he gives us an illuminating account of how this kicking argument worked in his own case. He says:

The day had come at last, the horses were pawing in the court-yard. My effects, my guns and camp-bed, my tent and stoves, were packed and roped. The horses had been loaded; the hotel account had been settled, when my interpreter quietly told me that my servants had struck for ten dollars Mexican monthly increase in the wages of each. I offered to compound with half: they were oburate. It seemed to me that a crisis was impending. I was too tired and cross to remonstrate. I raised my offer to eight dollars; it was refused—the servants were dismissed. Uproar broke out in the court-yard which my host pacified by inducing the boys to accept my last offer—a raise of eight dollars. My head servant, the brother of my interpreter, repudiated the arrangement, but the significance of this increase had assumed great importance. It was necessary to be firm. Nothing more would be given. The interpreter approached me to intimate that if his brother did not go he also should stay behind. I looked at him a moment, at last understanding the plot, and struck him. He ran into the court-yard and yelled that he was dead—that he had been murdered. The grooms gathered around him with loud cries of sympathy. I strode into the compound. The head groom came up to me demanding an increase of thirty dollars upon the terms he had already accepted. I refused and thrashed him with my whip. The end of my journey had come with a vengeance. The head groom came at me with a huge boulder, and as I let out upon his temple the riot began. My baggage was thrown off the horses and stones flew through the air. I hit and slashed at my assailants and for a few minutes became the center of a very nasty situation. In the end my host cleared the court-yard and recovered my kit, but I was cut a

little upon the head and my right hand showed a compound fracture—native heads are bad things to hammer. Postponement was now more than ever essential, my fears about my health were realized. By nightfall signs of sickness had developed, the pain had increased in my hand and arm, my head was aching, my throat was inflamed. I was advised to leave at once for Japan; upon the next day I sailed, etc., etc., etc.

In describing the necessary outfit for travelling in Korea the author gives a valuable list. Among other things he says:

Fresh mint is useful against fleas if thrown about near the sleeping things in little heaps. It is an invaluable remedy and usually effective though by the way I found the fleas and bugs in the houses of New York and Philadelphia infinitely less amenable to such treatment than any I came across in Korea.

The author evidently went to New York by way of Ellis Island; and, so far as we are aware, no mint is cultivated there for the use of immigrants.

This volume is made up, apparently, of a series of articles written at different times and under different conditions and one article contradicts another in such an amusing way that it is impossible to get at the facts of the case. In different parts of the book he speaks in almost diametrically opposite terms of the Japanese, the missionaries, the king, the government, the topography of the country. The best picture in the book is that of a Russian riding a reindeer somewhere north of the Amur River, but there are a number of other good pictures, especially the one of the raft on the Yalu River.

A. B. Stripling, Esq.

It was on Monday March 21st that the foreign community of Seoul was summoned to attend the funeral of one of the oldest foreign residents of Seoul, in the person of Mr. Stripling. The very great measure of respect in which he was held was evinced by the large number of friends and acquaintances who gathered to pay their last sad offices to the dead. The prominent

part which he played in Korean affairs demands more than a passing notice.

It was some forty years ago that he first came to the Far East as a young man. For some years he held an important post on the Shanghai police force. He afterwards held the position as Chief of the Shanghai Water Police and he was well known among all classes in that city for his absolute fearlessness. He was a man of powerful build and an expert swordsman.

It was in June 1883 that he came to Korea under Herr von Mollendorf as Commissioner of Customs at Chemulpo, a post which he filled until the retirement of von Mollendorff from the post of Chief Commissioner in 1885.

He then spent some time travelling in the interior prospecting for gold and other minerals; it is believed by some that he was the one who first discovered the gold deposit at Eunsan which an English syndicate are now working.

After the Japan-China War Mr. Stripling was appointed Adviser to the Police Department in Seoul, a post which he filled most acceptably for some time. But he found it impossible to get his ideas carried out in connection with the prisons and jails and consequently he resigned and retired to private life.

Some three or four years ago both his eyes were afflicted with cataract and he went to England to have an operation performed. This was partially successful and he came back to Korea with one eye fairly restored. For the past year or two his health had been gradually giving way. A shock of paralysis did much to hasten the end and he passed away on the 19th of March.

He was a man of noble nature and generous instincts, of broad education and great literary taste. Even those who knew him best were aware of comparatively only a small part of the kindly acts which he performed among the Koreans. He used to buy medicines in large quantities and give them to needy Koreans without charge. One of those who knew him best says of him that "His kindness of heart has rarely been surpassed. He was

absolutely unselfish and always gave a large part of his income to needy friends and even to strangers."

No one could come in contact with him even incidentally and for a short time without discovering the intrinsic warmth of his nature. And those who knew him best are loudest in their praise of him.

Rev. A. B. Turner read the burial service at the residence of the deceased after which the body was taken to the foreign cemetery at Yang-wha-chin for interment.

News Calendar.

Ch'oe Sük-cho has been appointed Director of the Imperial Mint in place of Yi Yong-ik.

The following are the terms of the Protocol signed by Japan and Korea about the end of February last.

Mr. Hayashi Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and Major-General Ye Chi-yong Minister of State for Foreign Affairs ad interim of His Majesty the Emperor of Korea being respectively duly empowered for the purpose have agreed upon the following Articles :

ARTICLE I. For the purpose of maintaining a permanent and solid friendship between Japan and Korea and firmly establishing peace in the Far East, the Imperial Government of Korea shall place full confidence in the Imperial Government of Japan and adopt the advice of the latter in regard to improvement in administration.

ARTICLE II. The Imperial Government of Japan shall in a spirit of firm friendship ensure the safety and repose of the Imperial House of Korea.

ARTICLE III. The Imperial Government of Japan definitely guarantees the independence and territorial integrity of the Korean Empire.

ARTICLE IV. In case the welfare of the Imperial House of Korea or the territorial integrity of Korea is endangered by aggression on the part of a third Power or by internal disturbances the Imperial Government of Japan shall immediately take such necessary measures as circumstances require, and in such case the Imperial Government of Korea shall lend its efforts to facilitate the action of the Imperial Japanese Government.

The Imperial Government of Japan may for the attainment of the above mentioned object, occupy when the circumstances require it, such places as may be necessary from strategic points of view.

ARTICLE V. The Governments of the two countries shall not in future without mutual consent conclude with a third Power such an arrangement as may be contrary to the spirit of the present Protocol.

ARTICLE VI. Details in connection with the present Protocol shall be arranged as the circumstances may require between the Representative of Japan and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Korea.

Late in February the Home Office sent a Korean to the north to report on the movements of the Japanese.

On 22nd of February the Korean Government threw open the border town of Wiju to foreign trade.

Pak Chung-yang was appointed Minister of Finance on Feb. 24.

The Korean authorities at Pyeng-yang wired on the 23rd of Feb. that 2,000 Russian soldiers had arrived at Kasan, 400 at Pak-chun, and that 50 were on the way toward Pyeng-yang from Ching-ju. On the 24th they wired that Japanese soldiers arrived at Pyeng-yang and were guarding the gates. Many officials in the towns along the line deserted their posts and came up to Seoul.

Min Pyŕng-sŕk was appointed Household Minister on Feb. 29.

At the beginning of March reports from the north indicated that there were fifty Russians at Anju, 1,400 at Ching-ju and 500 at Kasan.

On Feb. 28 a squad of Russian cavalry appeared near the Chil-sŕng Gate on the north side of Pyeng-yang. They were promptly fired upon by the Japanese guards at the gate. The range was about 700 yards. No great damage was done. The Russians returned the fire but soon withdrew carrying away, it is said, one wounded man.

It was on the same day that His Majesty gave ¥ 100,000, the Crown Prince ¥50,000, and Prince Yung-chin ¥30,000, to the Japanese as a present for the soldiers.

About March 1st Yi Pom-chin the Korean Minister to Russia was ordered by his government to leave St. Petersburg. He went to Paris.

The Japanese are paying the Korean government ¥ 5,000 a month as charter money for the Korean man-of-war *Yang-mu-ho*.

The Superintendent of Trade at Chemulpo reported on Mar. 1st that 28,000 Japanese troops had landed at that port up to date.

There has been a great reform in the promptness with which officials go to their offices. Of late, the ministers have fallen into the habit of attending to business at half-past twelve or one o'clock instead of at ten. Now they attend on schedule time and this forces all the lesser officials to do likewise.

The Japanese made a sort of bridge across the ice at Pyengyang.

On Mar. 1st news came that Japanese were buying much property on Kŕ-je Island in the mouth of Masanpo harbor and preparing to build fortifications.

The privilege of memorializing the Throne has been extended to all officials of any grade instead of being confined to those of high grade only.

It was on March 1st that the unsuccessful attempt was made by an assassin on the life of Yi Chi-yong the Foreign Minister. This we have described elsewhere. The same night several other houses were attacked with bombs but without success.

On March 4th by Royal edict the organization known as the "Peddlars Guild" was once, and forever, it is hoped, done away with. The edict applied to the whole country.

The taxes from mining franchises, butchers and crown lands have been again put into the hands of the Agricultural Department. The Household, under Yi Yong-ik, had long held them.

On March 5th the Japanese Minister advised the Korean Government to arrest and try Kil Yung-su, Choe Nak-chu, Yi Kyu-hang and Yi Chai-wha. Some of them were arrested but the chief rascal, Kil Yung-su, 'hid somewhere' as the Koreans say.

About March 6th the convalescent Russians in the hospital at Chemulpo there taken to Japan.

Dr. O. R. Avison has received from Nagasaki a supply of the virus of rabies and is prepared to treat a dozen or more patients by the Pasteur treatment. The virus will be good until about April 10th. It is his intention to arrange for the culture of the virus here so that people bitten by mad dogs can be treated at once. If there are any suspicious cases of dog bite it would be well to consult him at once.

Early in March several hundred Russians are said to have appeared at Kang-gye in the far north and to have committed excesses there. The local soldiers rose against them and drove them out.

Yi To-jā became Home Minister about the eighth inst.

The prefect of Yong-chūn reported on the eighth that 200 Russian troops left Yongampo for the Chinese side of the Yalu.

On the eighth Min Yūng-sūn, the son of Min Yūng-ik attempted to leave Chemulpo by boat but was stopped by the Japanese. It was suspected that he was carrying messages to Mr. Pavloff in Shanghai.

The British gunboat *Phoenix* went to Sūng-jin early in March and brought the British subjects from that place to Wonsan.

Min Yong-whan became Minister of Education on the 9th inst. Soon after taking this position he issued a statement bearing on this long neglected department. Among other things he said that government appointments should be given only to graduates of the government schools. And that graduates of other schools should be eligible to government positions upon examination. It will have to be done gradually but in three or four years this rule ought to be in running order. He advises that all children should attend the common schools and, having graduated, should attend the middle school and that a college or university should be established for higher education.

Prince Yi Chā-sun died on the 1st. So far as can be learned the cause of death was pneumonia but as he unfortunately did not have a foreign physician this cannot be verified. He was the great, great-grandson of Sa-do Se-ja, the unhappy son of King Yong-jong, 1724-1777, whom his father nailed up in a box and starved to death

but who was raised posthumously to royal honors. It was from the second son of this prince that Yi Chā-sun was lineally descended. As he was the fifth generation of the collateral line he was not a prince in his own right. That title expires with the fourth generation as it did in the case of the Tai Won-kun, father of the present emperor. But Yi Chā-sun was a prince because he became the adopted son of the elder brother of the king who preceded the present emperor. His official title was Prince Ch'ung-an. He was still in the prime of life, fifty-four years of age, when he died. Very many of the foreigners of Seoul will remember him as one of the most affable Koreans they ever met. Those who could not remember his Korean name called him the Fat Prince but without casting the least reflection upon him as a genial and courteous gentleman. We remember once when he was taking tea at the Seoul Union one of the little urchins who chase tennis balls happened to pass. The boy had a hare lip, and the Prince called him up gave him some money and told him to go and have a foreign physician treat his lip. This showed the kindness of his nature. He will long be remembered by those who knew him, as a man who would make friends wherever he went.

One of the most brilliant social events that Seoul has ever witnessed was the reception given to Marquis Ito, the special envoy from Japan to the Korean Emperor, at his temporary residence in Seoul, on the evening of the 24th inst. A large number of people were up from Chemulpo and it was quite evident that Seoul had turned out in force to grace this final reception to, perhaps, the greatest Japanese statesman, one who has been identified so perfectly with the whole process of Japan's modern evolution that he may in a sense be said to epitomize it. We trust that the results of his visit to Korea may be as lasting as they are sure to be salutary.

The Japanese Board of Trade in Fusan has petitioned the Japanese Government and the Minister in Seoul to secure the adoption of the following measures:—

- (1) A revision of the treaty between Korea and Japan.
- (2) The issuance of permanent deeds to real estate.
- (3) The management of the Imperial Customs by that power whose trade interests are largest in Korea.
- (4) A reform of the agricultural methods in Korea.
- (5) Permission for foreigners to reside anywhere in the interior of Korea.
- (6) The establishment of four or more Japanese agricultural stations in each of the thirteen provinces as object-lessons to the Koreans.
- (7) Permission for Japanese boats to visit and trade along the entire coast of Korea.
- (8) The establishment of numerous branches of Japanese banks throughout Korea.
- (9) The reorganization of the Korean monetary system so as to effect an equilibrium in exchange.

If we examine these nine articles carefully we will see that it is impossible to grant them under existing circumstances. The Japanese ask for extraterritorial rights without any provision being made for their government. It cannot be supposed that the Japanese or any other foreigner would be willing to submit to Korean rule, and yet, under any other conditions, it would be impossible to grant extraterritorial rights. A foreigner in the far interior of Korea must be under some authority. The comparatively few who travel on passport cause little or no trouble, but if large numbers of Japanese should settle in the interior the government must pass into the hands of the Japanese, which would be a violation of the treaty and of the new protocol. Perhaps it is for this reason that the Fusan people ask that the treaty be revised. This desire on the part of the Japanese to spread out over Korea generally seems to us to be the most perplexing question before the Japanese authorities. This desire cannot be gratified, so far as we can see, without seriously impairing Korean sovereignty. The time may come when, under the elevating influence of education and careful guidance, the Korean government will command such a degree of respect that Japanese and other foreigners will be willing to submit to Korean jurisdiction, even as they have in Japan; but that time is evidently not yet.

The meaning of the article dealing with the Imperial Customs is quite evident. It is a request that it be taken out of the hands of the present Customs Service and be put under Japanese control. It seems to us as if this article were quite enough to make the Japanese government ignore the entire petition. If the Customs Service were in native hands and were corrupt and inefficient, or if it were in hands inimical to Japanese interests, this request would be intelligible; but the Customs Service is one of the few departments of Korean administration that is practically beyond criticism both in its personnel and its workings. Moreover it is in the hands of Japan's friends. The wish to take it over can be prompted neither by a desire for the betterment of the service nor the advantage of the Korean government but simply for the sake of the salaried positions it would give the Japanese. Our surprise at this request grows when we remember that the famous contest over the Customs Service, which occurred a few years ago and in which England scored a conspicuous victory over Russia, made the service of world-wide prominence; so that any attempt by the Japanese to tamper with it at such a time as this is almost inconceivable. We are positive that nothing can be further from the intention of the Japanese authorities and we can only wonder that any Japanese subjects have the temerity to suggest such an obvious absurdity. Our entire confidence in the correct intentions of the Japanese authorities is confirmed by the news that we have heard that the Foreign Office in Seoul has been advised by the Japanese Legation to pay no attention to any applications for concessions on the part of Japanese subjects or companies unless they are made through the Japanese authorities. We feel sure that the government of

Japan will make it clear to its subjects that the present conditions in Korea do not constitute an open door whereby Japanese subjects can overrun the country and exploit its resources for their own benefit, irrespective of the rights and interests of the Korean government and people. We are told that a large Japanese syndicate offered ¥5,000,000 a year with an immediate bonus of ¥1,000,000 for certain monopolies; this is a considerable amount of money, but when we note that the permanent monopolies asked for cover the best resources of the Korean government we see that it would be selling her birthright for a mess of pottage.

We believe in Japanese influence in Korea for we believe it will be rightly exercised, on the whole. At the same time it is going to demand the best statesmanship of which Japan is capable to hold in check the impetuosity of the acquisitive faculty in a certain class of Japanese. We believe this will be one of the most searching tests, if one were needed, to prove the genuineness of the claim, which Japan puts forth, to being an enlightened as distinguished from a merely civilized power. Of her ability to stand this test we have no doubt whatever.

Kim Ka-jin was appointed Minister of Agriculture, Commerce and Public works on March 9.

Yi Yong-jik has been appointed governor of South Ch'ung-ch'ung Province.

Since March 8 Japanese gendarmes have been stationed in various parts of Seoul, notably Chong-dong and Chong-no.

On the evening of the 26th inst. Mr. Jack London gave a most interesting reading from his own works at the Y. M. C. A. building, for the entertainment of American and British soldiers and a few other friends. We are promised a public reading by this same gifted author, at some not distant date, for the benefit of the Y. M. C. A. Notice will be given in due time.

The governor of North Ham-gyūng wired on the 7th of March that 2500 Russians had come to Kyōng-sūng.

Beginning with March 9 the Law Office began the active prosecution of a large number of actual and supposed offenders. Thirteen of the Koreans who had been military students in Japan were arraigned on the charge of having conspired to overthrow the Government. Three of them were decapitated in the prison and ten were banished for life except two who received a lighter sentence. The Japanese, it is said, interfered, or many more would have been executed. It is said the charges were proved conclusively.

There were fifteen robbers in prison awaiting execution. Four of them met their fate but the other eleven broke jail and escaped. For this reason two officials were cashiered.

Beginning with March 9 the Japanese began the construction of redoubts on the island of K-je near Masanpo.

On Mar. 7th a Buddhist priest from the celebrated Sin-heung monastery bought a bull-head of wood but killed the driver threw his body into a ditch and sold the bull. He has been caught.

Yi Chung-ha has been made Governor of South Pyeng-an Province. Min Yung-geui has been made Governor of North Pyeng-an Province.

There is a discount of 11 percent on the notes issued for use in the Japanese army.

On March 2nd assassins attempted to lay hands on the Foreign Minister and three other officials. Armed only with a sword, one of the rascals climbed the wall of the Foreign Minister's compound and searched for him, but without success. At the same time the houses of three other officials were partly wrecked by explosive bombs. It is generally supposed that these acts were committed by, or at least at the instigation of ex-peddlers who had been rendered desperate by the overthrow of their hopes through the coming of the Japanese. These acts have no special political significance, nor do we think there need be any uneasiness for fear of their repetition.

Yun Chi-ho has been made vice-minister of Foreign Affairs. This is a very hopeful sign. It is evident that a salutary change is gradually being made. With Min Yong-whan, Kim Ka-chin, Yi To-chai, Yun Eung-yul, Sim Sang-hun and a few more men of their stamp in the foremost places there cannot but be a change for the better in political and social conditions throughout the country.

Col. Nodzu, who is so well and favorably known in foreign circles in Seoul, has been appointed adviser to the Korean War Department. His knowledge of Koreans and of local conditions generally will add much to the value of his services. The comparatively large sum that is spent upon the army makes it specially appropriate that a man of experience be employed to see that the money so spent brings the maximum returns to the government. What Korea wants of a large army it is hard to discover. If half the money devoted to the army were spent on education we believe the net results would be far greater. It is not an encouraging sign that education is held in a sort of contempt at the present time. This is because the government gives little encouragement to the student. For this reason the new Minister of Education has struck the right note in urging a plan whereby in a few years official positions will open only to those who have graduated from some reputable school.

Marquis Ito has come and gone. It would be pleasant to describe all the festivities that accompanied his visit but these are not the kernel of the matter. The various social functions must have bored him more or less but they are unavoidable in the case of a man of his standing. What interests us most is the list of twenty-eight suggestions which he made to His Majesty, but the purport of which has not transpired. We shall look eagerly for the real fruits of this visit, feeling that the advice of the Marquis, if followed, must be of great value to this people.

The exaggerated accounts which circulated regarding the accident which Mr. McKenzie of the *Daily Mail* met in the north were fortunately dispelled when that gentleman returned from the north and reported

that he only slipped on some stoue stairs in Pyeng-yang and suffered a slight sprain.

We learn that M. Takaki, Ph. D., who recently went to Japan, has resigned his position as Manager of the Dai Ichi Ginko. The reason for this lay in the fact that the authorities of the Bank in Tokyo forbade the loaning of mouey to merchants in Korea. This singular action caused consternation among mercantile circles here and it was opposition to their policy that caused Dr. Takaki's resignation. We have the best of reasons for believing that he will soon be back in Seoul in a position of equal or greater importance. His intimate knowlege of monetary and financial conditious in the peninsula will surely be utilized in some important post. We shall welcome him back with great pleasure.

The Wiju Railway is definitely under way. This will become evident if one goes to Yong San and sees the great cutting that is being made there to carry the line through the hills westward. Work is going on bri-kly each way from Song-do and we expect to see the time soon when the wearisome journey to Pyeng Yang will become an easy six or seven hours run by rail.

Wiju and Yongampo have both been opened at last. It was only the stress of war that brought this about. The Russian Minister succeeded, so long as he was here, in blinding the Government to its own best interests but now the thing has been accomplished, and with the opening of these ports of course the Russian Timber Concession falls to the ground. How many millions this will save to the Korean Government it is hard to say but the Korean people are to be congratulated on having escaped so easily.

On March 12th the U. S. war vessel, *Cincinnati* went north to Chinnampo to bring away ladies and children who might wish to get out of the zone of active war. But by the time the boat arrived there conditions had so changed that it was found necessary to send only a few. This, however, does not detract from the credit due to the American authorities for their prompt and energetic action.

The sending of the *Cincinnati* to Chinnampo and the *Phoenix* to Sung-jin for the sake of a few nationals inspires awe in the mind of the Korean, who marvels that a great government like America or England would spend thousands for the sake of the convenience of a mere handful of their subjects. Not until the Koreans realize the reasonableness of such action will they be fitted for the higher reaches of constitutional government.

We learn that the Russians are recruiting the Koreaus who have settled on Russian soil north of the Tuman River. It is something of an experiment, we should think, but it is evident that the Russians will have to press into their service every agency possible to ward off the "peril" which in her case is quite real.

On March 28th the Russians and Japanese came again in touch with each other near the town of Chöng-ju. This is about half way between Auju and Wiju and the first large town this side of Suu-ch'un

where Dr. Sharrocks and his family are still stopping. One Japanese cavalry company and one company of infantry were engaged. One Japanese officer and three men were killed and about a dozen wounded. The Russian force is not definitely known but some say it amounted to 600 men. The result, as given by the Japanese, was a retreat on the part of the Russians. It is evident that the Japanese are pushing steadily on toward the Yalu without any serious opposition.

We notice in a recent issue of the *Kobe Chronicle* a review of a book by one George Lynch who, according to the *Chronicle*, quoted the *Korea Review* in support of some abusive statements against missionaries in Korea. It is a sample of the dishonest tricks to which men have recourse in attacking missionaries, for after quoting the statement in the April number of the *Review*, to the effect that hundreds of Koreans apply to the Christian churches each year for admission, with the idea of escaping official oppression, the writer omits the accompanying statement that extreme care is exercised by Protestant missionaries in preventing the entrance of these people into the churches and on his own authority and in utter ignorance of the facts asserts that all such people readily find entrance to the church and thenceforward are backed up by the foreign missionary. We wish to state very plainly that so far as Protestant missions in Korea are concerned this is the very opposite of the facts.¹

During the past month a son has been born to Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Donham and one also to Mr. and Mrs. Devose.

We find it necessary this month to enlarge the *Review* by the issue of a supplement, which we think will prove of great interest to our readers. It gives us a very welcome glimpse of conditions in the north. It is told in a very modest way and one is left to imagine the feelings inspired, for instance, by arriving at night at a Tong-hak village and being ordered out instanter. As there was only one gentleman in the party it must have been a fairly exciting moment. The experiences of the party from the American mines were also very interesting. The two estimates of the Russian cavalry horses will be compared with interest.

KOREAN HISTORY.

Another of the great powers of the West had been humbled. Korea could show her great patrón China how to handle the barbarians. He immediately ordered the erection in the center of the city of a monument which had been in preparation since 1866. The inscription ran as follows.

“The Western Barbarians have attacked and injured us, with a view either to making war upon us or to forcing treaties upon us. If we consent to the latter it will mean the betrayal of the country. Let our descendants to the ten thousandth generation bear this in mind. Made in the Pyöng-in Year and set up in the Siu-mi Year.”

Chapter XV.

The “Frontier Guard” Japanese attempts at making a treaty agent at the palace . . . the Regent's power on the wane . . . a “Combination” . . the Regent retires . . a puppet . . “infernal machine” reforms . . . a dangerous memorial . . fight with the Japanese . . . two parties in Japan . . . Japanese commission . . negotiations . . . treaty signed . . a mysterious conflagration . . Japanese minister . . . French priests released . . . a curious book . . anti-Christian policy abandoned . . commission to Japan . . . conspiracy . . liberal party . . . hopeful outlook . . the Min policy . . . split between the Min and liberal factions . . Minister to Japan . . . military students . . . regular troops neglected . . . emeute of 1882 . . . Japanese legation attacked . . the palace entered . . the Queen escapes . . the ex-Regent quiets the soldiers . . . a mock funeral.

In order to understand the interesting train of events that transpired in 1873 it will be necessary to go back and review the relations that existed between Korea and Japan.

At the close of the Japanese invasion an arrangement had been arrived at between Japan and Korea by the terms of which the Japanese placed a number of traders at Fusan. The popular belief of the Koreans that the government ac-

cepted these as hostages in place of an annual tribute of three hundred Japanese female hides is an amusing fiction which is intended to offset the ignominy of the ear and nose monument in Kyoto.

This colony was called the Su-ja-ri or "Frontier Guard." The Korean government appropriated ten million cash a year to its support. The Japanese claim that these people were not hostages but were merchants and were placed there to form a commercial *point d'appui* between the two countries. That the money paid for their support was of the nature of a tribute is neither claimed by the Japanese nor admitted by the Koreans; in fact the terms always used in describing these payments implies the coördinate degree of the recipient.

This Japanese colony was continued up to the year 1869 without intermission but it was not destined to remain undisturbed. No sooner had the Imperial government become established in Japan than the Emperor appointed a commission to approach the Korean government through the time-honored avenue of approach, namely Fusan and the prefect of Tong-nā, with a view to establishing closer commercial and diplomatic relations. This commissioner transacted the business through the Daimyo of Tsushima who sent the Imperial letter to the prefect of Tong-nā and asked that it be transmitted to the capital. After reading it the prefect refused to send it, on the plea that whereas Japan had always addressed Korea in terms of respect she now adopted a tone of superiority and called herself an Empire. The envoy urged that Japan had recently undergone a complete change, that she had adopted Western ideas and had centralised her government, and urged that the missive must be sent on to Seoul. The prefect was prevailed upon to copy the letter and send it on to the Regent but the Reply came back forthwith "We will not receive the Japanese letter. Drive the envoy away." The following year the annual grant of rice was suddenly discontinued without a word of warning and the Japanese in Fusan were greatly exercised thereby. They made a loud outcry and their government made repeated attempts to come to an understanding with the Korean government but without success.

It was in 1870 that the Japanese Hanabusa, called Wha-

bang Eui-jil by the Koreans, came with an urgent request that a treaty of commerce be signed, but he was likewise unsuccessful. The King, however, was nearing the age when the Regent must hand over to him the reins of power and the Queen, a woman of natural ability and of imperious will, was gathering about her a faction which was wholly inimical to the plans and the tactics of the Regent. The latter found to his chagrin that the woman whom he had placed on the throne with his son with special reference to the cementing of his own power was likely to become the instrument of his undoing. Sure it is that in spite of the hatred which the Regent evinced against the Japanese this same Hanabusa came to Seoul in 1871 or early in 1872, in a quite unofficial manner, and was given quarters at the palace where he was in constant communication with the Queen and the members of her faction, and where, by exhibiting curious objects of western manufacture, such as a toy telephone and the like, he amused his royal patroness and won his way into the favor of the party that was shortly to step into the place made vacant by the retiring Regent.

The queen's faction were diametrically opposed to the most cherished prejudices of the Regent. They favored, or at least looked with complacency upon, the growth of Roman Catholicism, they favored the policy of listening to China's advice in the matter of foreign relations. They were doubtless urged in this direction partly by pure opposition to the Regent and partly by the representations of the Japanese who had gained the ear of royalty. The palace was the scene of frequent and violent altercations between the heads of these two factions, but an open rupture did not occur until the year 1873 when an official named Ch'oe Ik-hyün memorialised the throne speaking disparagingly of the presence of the Japanese in the palace and, toward the end, charging the Regent with indirection in the use of the public funds. The king had for some time been growing restive under the control of the Regent, being led to some extent by the new party of which the queen was the patroness and at whose head stood her brother, Min Seung-ho. The memorial was received with marks of approval by the king and he immediately cut off a large part of the revenues of the Regent. At the same time Min Seung-

ho approached the Regent's son, Yi Chā-niyūn, elder brother to the king, and suggested that if the Regent could be removed they two might share the leadership of affairs. The young man accepted the offer and ranged himself in line with the opposition. The Regent was now in great straits. The combination against him had proved too strong, and in the last moon of 1873 he shook off the dust of Seoul from his feet and retired to Ka-p'yūng, thirty-five miles to the east of the capital. After five months of residence there he returned as far as the village of Kōdeung, ten miles to the north-east of Seoul.

Among the people there was still a strong element that favored the ex-Regent. They missed a strong personality at the helm of state, for the Koreans have always preferred a strong even if tyrannical leadership. In recognition of this sentiment it was deemed wise to put the ex-Regent's brother, whom he had always kept severely in the back-ground, in the prominent if not necessarily important position of Prime Minister. He proved as was intended a mere puppet in the hands of the Min party who by this time had absorbed the whole power of the government. He was allowed, in compensation for this, to control the sale of public offices to his own profit, but always under the vigilant eye of the dominant faction.

A new era in the metamorphosis of Korea had now begun. Public affairs in the peninsula took a new direction. Min Seung-ho was court favorite and it looked as if matters would soon settle down to something like their former tranquility. But the latter days of the year were destined to bring a severe shock to the leaders of the new party. One day Min Seung-ho received a letter purporting to be from a certain party with whom he was on intimate terms, and with it came a casket wrapped in silk. He was requested to open it only in the presence of his mother and his son. Late at night in his inner chamber he opened it in the presence of these members of his family, but when he lifted the cover the casket exploded with terrific force killing the three instantly and setting the house on fire. As Min Seung-ho had but one enemy bold enough to perpetrate the deed the popular belief that it was done by his great rival is practically undisputed, though no direct evidence perhaps exists.

Min T'ā-ho immediately stepped into the place made vacant by the terrible death of the favorite. Soon after this the government discontinued the use of the 100 cash pieces with which the Regent had diluted the currency of the country. In the second moon of 1874 the crown prince was born. The year was also signalised by the remittance in perpetuity of the tax on real estate in and about the city of Seoul.

In 1875 three of the ex-Regent's friends, led by Cho Ch'ung-sik, memorialised the throne begging that the Prince Tai-wūn be again reinstated in power. For this rash act they were all condemned to death, and it was only by the personal intercession of the ex-Regent that the sentence was commuted to banishment for life. Even so, Cho Ch'ung-sik was killed at his place of exile.

In September the Japanese man-of-war *Unyo Kwan*, after making a trip to Chefoo, approached the island of Kang-wlia to make soundings. Approaching the town of Yōng-jūng, they sent a small boat ashore to look for water. As they neared the town they were suddenly fired upon by the Koreans in the little fortress, who evidently took them for Frenchmen or Americans. A moment later the small boat was turned about and was making toward the man-of-war again. The commander gave instant orders for summary punishment to be inflicted for this perfectly unprovoked assault. He opened fire on the town and soon silenced the batteries. A strong body of marines was landed which put the garrison to flight, seized all the arms and provisions and fired the town. The man-of-war then steamed away to Nagasaki to report what had occurred.

At this time there were in Japan two parties who took radically different views of the Korean question. One of these parties, led by Saigo of Satsuma, smarting under the insulting way in which Korea had received the Japanese overtures, would listen to nothing but instant war. The other party, which saw more clearly the vital points in the question at issue, urged peaceful measures. The policy of the latter prevailed and it was decided to send an embassy to attempt the ratification of a treaty, and if that failed war was to be the alternative. This peace policy was so distasteful to the war party that Saigo returned to Satsuma and began to set in mo-

tion those agencies which resulted in the sanguinary Satsuma Rebellion.

For many centuries there had been a strip of neutral territory between the Korean border, the Yalu River, and the Chinese border which was marked by a line of stakes. This strip of land naturally became the hiding place of refugees and criminals from both countries, for here they were free from police supervision whether Korean or Chinese. The statesman Li Hung-chang recognized this to be a menace to the welfare of both countries and took steps to put an end to it, by sending a strong body of troops who, in conjunction with a gunboat, succeeded in breaking up the nest of desperadoes and rendering the country fit for colonisation. Two years later this strip of land was definitely connected with China and the two countries again faced each other across the waters of the Yalu,

The Korean attack upon the Unyo Kwan off Kang-wha proved the lever which finally roused Japan to active steps in regard to the opening of Korea. The war party regarded it as their golden opportunity, while the peace party believed it would pave the way for a peaceful accomplishment of their purpose. An envoy was despatched to Peking to sound the policy of that government. The Chinese, fearing that they would be held responsible for the misdoings of Korea denied all responsibility and virtually acknowledged the independence of the peninsula. At the same time a military and naval expedition under Kiroda Kiyotaku, seconded by Inouye Bunda, sailed for Kang-wha with a fleet of gunboats, containing in all some 800 men. The Chinese had already advised the Korean government to make terms with the Japanese, and this in fact was the wish of the dominant party; so, when the Japanese demand reached Seoul, that commissioners be sent to Kang-wha to treat with the visitors the government quickly complied. Two high officials, Sin Hōn and Yun Cha-seung, were despatched to Kang-wha and the first definite step was taken toward casting off the old time isolation policy, the fond dream of the ex-Regent.

The Japanese envoy opened the conference by asking why the Koreans had given no answer to the repeated requests of the Japanese for the consummation of a treaty of

peace and friendship. The Korean commissioner replied that from the very earliest times Japan had always addressed Korea in respectful language, but that now she had arrogated to herself the title of Great Japan and called her ruler the Great Emperor. This seemed to imply the vassalage of Korea, an entirely new role for her to play. The Japanese replied that the mere assumption of the name of empire on the part of Japan implied nothing as to the status of Korea one way or the other. This seemed to satisfy the Koreans.

The Japanese then asked why they had been fired upon at Yüng-jüng. The answer was that the Japanese were dressed in European clothes and were therefore mistaken for Europeans. But when the Japanese asked why the Koreans had not recognized the Japanese flag, especially since the Japanese government had been careful to send copies of their flag to Korea and ask that one be sent to each of the prefectures throughout the land, the Korean commissioners could find nothing to say and had to confess that they had been in error.

All these things were duly reported to the authorities in Seoul where daily councils were being held to discuss the important questions. The ex-Regent sent an urgent appeal to the ministers not to make a treaty, but the tide had turned, and after some sharp discussion as to how the two governments should be designated in the treaty it was finally ratified on February 27th 1876, and Korea was a hermit no longer. Three months later a semi-official envoy was sent to Japan in the person of Kim Keui-su.

Meanwhile the closing days of 1875 had beheld a curious event in Seoul. In the dead of night the house of Yi Ch'oe-eung, the Prime Minister and the brother of the ex-Regent, was set on fire by an unknown hand and burned to the ground. None of the inmates were injured. The culprit was seized and under torture confessed that one Sin Ch'ül-gyun had hired him to do the work. Sin was therefore seized and put to death as a traitor. Whether he was indeed guilty and if so whether he was but an agent in the business are questions that have never been answered.

It was not until the sixth moon of 1879 that, in pursuance of the new treaty, a Japanese Minister, Hanabusa,

was sent to represent his government at Seoul. We will remember that he had already served his government most successfully at the Korean capital in a private capacity. The new legation was situated at the Ch'ün Yün-jüŋ near the lotus pond outside the West Gate. At almost the very same time two French priests arrived in Seoul and took up their quarters outside this same gate and began to proselyte. They were forthwith seized by the authorities, and were for some time in imminent danger. There was however a strong feeling in the government that this was inconsistent with the new role that it had elected to play and that it was distinctly dangerous. A halt was called and the Japanese Minister took advantage of it to inform the authorities that he had received a message from the French Minister in Tokyo asking him to use his good offices in behalf of these endangered men. The Minister added his own advice that the Korean government should hand over the imprisoned men at once. This was done and the Japanese Minister} forwarded {them to Japan.

One year later, in the summer of 1880, Kim Hong-jip, a man of progressive tendencies, went to Japan. Soon after arriving there he met a Chinaman who seems to have made a strong impression on him. This Chinaman had many talks with him and gave him a long manuscript dealing with the subject of Korea's foreign relations, which he asked should be transmitted to the king of Korea. In it he advised the cementing of friendship with the United States, China and Japan, but he spoke disparagingly of Russia. It mentioned Protestant Christianity as being the basis of Western greatness and advised that its propagation be encouraged. It compared the division of Christianity into Roman Catholic and Protestant to the division of Confucianism into the two sects Chu-ja and Yuk-sang-sau. When Kim Hong-jip brought this manuscript and placed it in the hands of the king it created a profound sensation, and awakened the bitterest opposition. Many advised that he be killed as an introducer of Christianity. The most violent of all were Yi Man-son, Hong Chā-hak and Pāk Nak-kwan who memorialized the throne urging the execution of Kim and the overthrow of all Christian work in the peninsula. This met with the severest

censure from the king, not because it was in itself seditious but because it was an attempt to reinstate the policy of the Regency. Yi Man-son was banished, Hong Chǎ-hak was executed and Pāk Nak-kwan was imprisoned. This put an end to anti-Christian talk for the time being and it was never again seriously raised.

By the fourth moon of 1881 the progressive tendencies of the new regime had made such headway that the king determined to send a commission to Japan to look about and see something of the world, from which Korea had been so carefully secluded. For this purpose His Majesty selected Cho Chun-Yŭng, Pak Chōng-yang, Sim Sang hak, Cho Pyŭng-jik, Min Chong-muk, O Yun jung, Om Se-yŭng, Kang Mun-hyŭng, Hong Yŭng-sik, Yi Wŭn-whe, and Yi Pong-eui. These men immediately took passage for Japan. At the same time a party of young men was sent to Tientsin under the chaperonage of Kim Yun-sik on a similar errand.

Late in this year, 1881, four of the adherents of the ex-Regent conspired to overthrow the government, dethrone the king and put in his place Yi Chǎ-sŭn, a son of the ex-Regent by a concubine. The ex-Regent was then to be brought back to power. The last day of the eighth moon was set for the consummation of this plot. But on the day before, Nam-Myŭng sŭn and Yi P'ung-nǎ divulged the whole scheme to the favorite Min T'ǎ-ho, and as a result the four arch-conspirators were seized on the morning of the day set for the culmination of the plot and within a few days eleven others were taken. In the eleventh moon they were all beheaded, and at the same time Yi Chǎ-sŭn was given poison and expired.

By this time a real liberal party had begun to form. Its leading spirits were Kim Ok-kyun, Pāk Yŭng-hyo, So Kwang-bom, Hong Yŭng-sik, Yi To-jǎ, Sin Keui-sŭn and Pak Yŭng-kyo. These were all men of very high family and held important positions under the government. They were in favor of the immediate opening of Korea to intercourse with foreign powers and the establishment of reforms such as had been effected in Japan. The king was largely influenced by the progressive policy mapped out by these men and an era of rapid advancement seemed to be dawning. A special department was established called the Ki-mu or Machinery Bureau which

was to take charge of the introduction of foreign machinery and implements of all kinds.

It is important to note the position of the Min faction at this point. It was with the downfall of the Regent that, through the queen's influence, the Min faction sprang to life. With the utmost celerity all government positions were filled with them or their sympathizers and it seemed sure that they would have a long lease of official life. The extreme opposition of the Regent to all reforms and to the opening of the country to foreign intercourse naturally inclined his rivals in that very direction and it was directly through the Min faction that the policy of non-seclusion was inaugurated. The queen likewise was in favor of opening up the country to the civilizing influences of the West. But with the Min faction, as a whole, the question of national policy were entirely secondary to the one main idea of preserving the ascendancy which they had gained. Here is the key to all that followed. The Mins were not at that time facing China-ward and they never would have been had it not become necessary in order to preserve the enviable position they occupied. As we have seen, a number of high officials who had imbibed something of the spirit of reform which had permeated Japan were filling the ear of the king and queen with plans for reform. They were meeting with a favorable hearing and in proportion as they succeeded, the power of the Mins must wane; not because the latter disliked the idea of opening up Korea but because it was another faction that had the work in hand, and that faction would naturally attain more and more power at court as success crowned their efforts. It was just here that the difficulty began. If the liberal leaders had been willing to put the working out of the plan into the hands of the Min faction all might have gone along smoothly and Korea might have realized some of the hopes of the would-be reformers. But such self-abnegation could scarcely be expected from men who saw in the carrying out of their brilliant scheme not only rewards for themselves but the advancement of the country. The personal element was present in full force and this was the rock on which the reformation of Korea split. We may believe that it was at this point that the Min faction determined its policy, a policy that led it straight into the arms of

China. From this point it became not the progressive party but the conservative party. Its leading members were Min T'ā-ho, Min Yūng-muk, Min Tu-ho, Han Kyu-jik and Cho Ryūng-ha. There was one of the Mins however who held with the liberal party, for a time at least. This was Min Yūng-ik, nephew to the queen, adopted son of Min Seung-ho who had been killed by the infernal machine in 1874. That this man took his stand at first with the liberals is shown by the fact that in the spring of 1882 he joined Kim Hong-jip, Kim Ok-kyun, Hong Yūng-sik and other liberal leaders in advising the king to select 200 young men and engage a Japanese instructor to drill them in military tactics. The advice was followed, and Lieutenant Isobayachi was employed for that purpose. Without delay he began work at the Ha-do-gam near the East Gate. At the same time a number of young men were sent to Japan to study military matters. Among these the most prominent was Sū Chā-p'il who was intimately connected with the liberal movement, though at that time he was too young to take a prominent part.

The first regularly appointed Minister to the Japanese was Pak Yūng-hyo the liberal leader. In the early part of 1882 he departed on his mission. It was at Chemulpo on board the little Japanese steamer that the Korean flag was first designed. Pak Yūng-hyo, Kim Ok-kyun, Sū Kwang-bom and Sū Chā-p'il were all present when it was hoisted for the first time in honor of the first Minister to Japan.

While the two hundred men who were being drilled at the Ha-do-gam were being plentifully fed and clothed by the government, the 3,700 troops, called the Hul lyūn To-gam, the former Royal Guard, were being badly neglected. Their pay was two or three months in arrears and for a similar period they had not received a grain of rice. They were naturally incensed and there were angry mutterings against the two hundred men who were being treated so much better than they. When the king was made aware of this he ordered that a month's allowance of rice be given out to these discontented troops. This work was put into the hands of Min Kyūm-ho the overseer of the government finances, and he in turn handed the matter over to his major-domo who, it appears, sold the good rice and with the proceeds bought a large quan-

tity of the poorest quality which he mixed with sand and doled out to the hungry troops. The result may be imagined. They congregated in various places and determined that since they must die in any event they would rather die fighting than starving. They strengthened the feeble-hearted among their own number by threats of death in case any proved unfaithful and refused to assist in the work in hand. On the night of the ninth of the sixth moon, in the midst of heavily falling rain, they arose *en masse* and proceeded to their general's house, where they announced that they were going to take revenge on those who had wronged them. That they not only did not attack him but that they even had the courtesy to go and tell him what they were about to do shows clearly that he was in no wise to blame for the ill-treatment they had received. They also sent a messenger to the ex-Regent, but the purport of the message is not known. They then hastened to the residence of Min Kyūn-ho, but he had heard of the trouble and had fled to the royal presence for protection. The infuriated soldiery vented their rage on the property by tearing down the house and destroying the furniture. They seized the dishonest major-domo and beat him to death upon the spot. The sight of this aroused all their worst instincts and, separating into bands of two or three hundred, they hastened to different parts of the town to complete what had been begun. Some ran to the prisons and liberated the inmates who naturally joined the ranks of the rioters. One of these prisoners was Pāk Nak-kwan who had memorialized the throne in favor of the ex-Regent. They took him on their shoulders and rushed through the streets shouting "Pāk Chung-sin" or "Pāk the patriot." For this, a few months later he was torn to pieces by bullocks outside the West Gate. Part of the mob went to the Ha-do-gam, but on their approach the Japanese military instructor took to his heels and made for the Japanese Legation. But he was overtaken and cut down in the streets. Another detachment hastened to the Japanese Legation itself, but found the gates shut and barred. Within were nine Japanese. In order to make it light enough to carry on their dastardly work the assaulting mob threw firebrands over the wall and thus illuminated the place, for it was night. The little company of Japanese soon became

aware that they could not hope to stand a siege and that their only hope lay in a bold dash. Suddenly the gates flew open and the nine determined men rushed out brandishing their swords and firing their revolvers straight into the crowd. The Koreans were taken wholly by surprise and beat a hasty retreat. In their headlong flight many of them fell into the lotus pond adjoining. As the Japanese hurried along to the governor's yamen which was not far away, they cut down a few of the mob. They found that the governor had gone to the palace and so they turned their faces toward Chemulpo and hastened away. Another party of the insurgents went outside the city to various monasteries which they burned to the ground. The most important of these was the Sin-heung Monastery outside the Northeast Gate. This move was dictated by hate of the Min faction whose patroness was known to be very well affected toward Buddhism and to have made friends with the monks.

Other parties scattered over the city carrying the torch to the door of every member of the Min faction. The houses of Min Kyūm-ho, Min T'ā-ho, Min Yūng-ik, Min Yūng-so, Min Yūng-jun, Min Yūng-ju Min Ch'ang-sik, Prince Heung-in, Kim Po-hyūn and Yun Chā dūk were torn down by the use of long ropes. The furniture was piled in a great heap in the street and burned. The only member of the Min clan however that was seized that night was Min Ch'ang-sik who lived at Kon-dang-kol. He had the unenviable reputation of having taken large sums of money from the people by indirection. When he was seized he cried "I am not a Min; my name is Pāk." They bound him and carried him through the streets shouting "Is this a Min or a Pāk?" The populace answered fiercely "He is a Min." So they took him down to the big bell and stabbed him in a hundred places with their swords and cut his mouth from ear to ear.

When the morning of the tenth broke Seoul was in a terrible condition. Bands of frenzied soldiery were ranging through the streets. The people either huddled about their fireplaces with barred doors or else sought safety in flight from the city. At last the mob rendezvoused in front of the palace gate and finding no opposition they boldly entered. Rushing into the inner court of the king's private apartments

they found themselves face to face with His Majesty. About him stood a few of the officials who had not fled the city. There were Min Kyūm-ho, Kim Po-hyūn, Cho Ryūng-ha and Prince Heung in. Rushing forward the soldiers struck their swords against the floor and the door-posts and demanded that these men be handed over to them. It was quite evident that there was no escape and that by refusal they would only endanger the king's life. So these men made obeisance to His Majesty and then stepped down into the hands of the soldiers. Min Kyūm-ho and Kim Po-hyūn were instantly struck down and hacked in pieces before the very eyes of the king. Of Kim nothing remained but the trunk of his body. Cho Ryūng-ha was spared but Prince Heung-in died the same day for he was mashed to a jelly by the gun-stocks of the soldiers.

This done, the soldiers demanded the person of the queen. The king sternly demanded how they dared ask of him the person of his Queen. Without answering they rushed away to her private apartments. Seizing palace women by the hair they dragged them about demanding where their mistress was. But while this was going on one of the palace guard named Hong Cha-heui entered the Queen's presence and said that she was in danger and that her only hope of escape lay in getting on his back and being carried out. This she instantly did. A skirt was hastily thrown over her head and the heroic man took her straight out through the midst of the infuriated soldiery. Some of them seized hold of him and demanded whom he was carrying. He replied that it was one of the palace women, his sister, whom he was conveying to a place of safety. His heroism was rewarded by seeing her safely outside the palace and comfortably housed at the residence of Yun T'ŭ-jūn to the west of the palace. The next day she was taken in a closed chair toward the village of Chang-wūn in the district of Ch'ung-ju in Ch'ung ch'ūng Province, where she arrived several days later. In that place she found refuge in the house of Min Eung-sik. This journey was made not along the main road but along by-paths among the mountains, and it is said that Hong Cha-heui lost several of his toes as a result of this terrible march, for shoes could not be procured.

But we must return to the palace. The ex-Regent ap-

peared on the scene while the soldiers were still raging through the palace in search of the Queen. He gave the signal to stop, and instantly the soldiers obeyed and quietly left the palace. That these soldiers, worked up as they were to a perfect frenzy, should have obeyed the commands of the Prince Tai-wün so instantly and implicitly would seem to argue a closer connection with this outbreak than any overt act on his part would give us warrant to affirm.

The ex-Regent was now in power again. He supposed that the Queen had been killed, and on the next day he summoned the officials and said that though the Queen was dead yet her body had not been found; they must therefore take some of her clothing and perform the funeral rites with them instead. The proclamation went forth, and from the middle of the sixth moon the people went into mourning for their Queen.

Chapter XVI.

A panic... Japanese envoy ... a counter demand... Chinese troops arrive... rioters captured... the Regent kidnapped... the Queen returns... Foreign Office ... von Mollendorf... minting... American Minister ... various innovations ... special envoy to the United States ... the American farm ... treaties ... liberal and conservative parties drift further apart ... Pak Yüng-hyo's attempted reforms... school for interpreters ... fears of the progressive party ... a crisis imminent ... understanding with the Japanese ... the dinner at the Post Office ... attempted assassination ... confusion ... Liberal leaders hasten to the palace ... Japanese called in ... conservative leaders put to death ... official changes ... Chinese demands ... the fight in the palace ... the king goes over to the Chinese... liberals killed ... the Japanese retire to Chemulpo ... indemnity ... executions ... Japanese terms ... hospital ... missions ... Tientsin convention ... corruption ... von Mollendorf dismissed... China takes over the customs ... Judge Denny engaged as adviser ... obstacles put in his way ... government English School... mission schools ... Minister to the United States... the "baby war."

A few days after the flight of the Queen a rumor was circulated to the effect that a large body of men belonging to

the peddler's guild had congregated outside the East Gate and were about to enter and loot the city. A panic seized the people, and men, women and children might be seen flying in all directions, some out into the neighboring country and some up the steep sides of the surrounding mountains. The gates being all locked the people forced the South Gate and the two West gates and thus made good their escape. The king himself was affected by the rumor and leaving the palace sought safety at the house of Yi Che-wan. But the panic ceased as quickly as it had begun, and within three hours the people were returning to their homes again. The extreme haste with which the people tried to get away is illustrated in the case of one old man who seized his little grand-son, as he supposed by the hand, and fled up a mountain but found to his dismay that he had taken the boy by the leg rather than by the hand and that the little fellow had succumbed to this harsh treatment.

On the fifth of the seventh moon Count Inouye arrived in Chemulpo as Japanese envoy and immediately sent word to have a high Korean official sent to Chemulpo to discuss the situation. Kim Hong-jip was sent, and as a result the Korean government was asked to pay an indemnity for the lives of the Japanese who had been killed. It appears that besides the Japanese military instructor five or six others had been killed, also a considerable amount of Japanese money had been seized and destroyed at the Japanese headquarters. The indemnity was placed at a million cash apiece for the Japanese who had fallen. This amounted to something like \$2,500 each, a ridiculously small sum, but perhaps all the Japanese thought they could get. The ex-Regent replied that if the Japanese demanded this indemnity the Korean government would feel obliged to levy a tax upon all Japanese merchants doing business in Korea. This was practically a refusal to pay the indemnity and the envoy took his departure.

Hardly had he left before a Chinese force 3,000 strong arrived at Nam-yang off the town of Su-wün. They were commanded by Generals O Chang-gyŭng, Wang Sük-ch'ang, Ma Kün-sang and by a lesser officer named Wün Se-gã who was destined to play a leading part from this time on. These

